

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Fifth International Ornithological Congress will be held in Berlin May 30 to June 4, 1910, under the Presidency of Dr. Anton Reichenow. The Congress will be organized in six sections: I, Anatomy and Palaeontology; II, Systematic Ornithology and Geographical Distribution; III, Biology and Oölogy; IV, Bird Protection; V, Introduction and Acclimatization; VI, Aviculture. The official languages of the Congress will be German, English, French, and Italian. A detailed program will be issued in January. All communications for the Congress should be addressed: V. Internationaler Ornithologen Kongress, Berlin N. 4, Invalidenstr. 43.

ORNITHOLOGISTS will be interested to know that in the alterations and additions to the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia that have just been completed the Ornithological Department has been allotted half of the top floor of the main Museum building, directly over the exhibition bird gallery. There is an abundance of light in the new quarters and the collection of skins is arranged to better advantage than ever before. The specimens, numbering upwards of 50,000, are arranged in 200 metal cases carrying trays 16×18 inches, and 50 large cases with trays 3×6 feet, while at the west end is a spacious work room and meeting room where the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club now holds its sessions. The exhibition series of mounted birds numbers about 10,000, besides which is a large collection of osteological material, nests and eggs.

THE Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard University has received during the past year the most noteworthy accessions to its bird collection in its history. These include, as the most important, the E. A. and O. Bangs collection, containing approximately 24,000 skins, chiefly from North and Middle America and the West Indies. Most of these from Central America were taken by Mr. Wilmot W. Brown and Mr. C. F. Underwood, well known as intelligent and energetic collectors, the former noted for his skill in preparing skins of birds and mammals. The specimens have been determined by Mr. Outram Bangs, with the assistance of Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Richmond. They also include the types of the many new forms described in recent years by Mr. Bangs. Another gift of unusual importance consists of several thousand specimens from the interior of central and western China, presented by Mr. John E. Thayer. A collection of over 3000 skins collected in Palestine have been acquired by purchase. A considerable number of other skins and mounted specimens of unusual interest have also been acquired, by gift or purchase, from other sources.

DURING the year 1909, the American Museum of Natural History in New York received 600 birds from Nicaragua, collected by Mr. William B. Richardson, and other collections from Formosa, Japan, and the Philippine Islands. The number of Nicaragua birds collected by Mr. Richardson for the Museum now numbers nearly 2000, representing about 400 species.

In addition to several new 'habitat groups' completed during the year, a large group of Paradise Birds has been installed, numbering about 80 species, and including nearly all of the most remarkable and striking forms of the family, the material for this large and exceedingly beautiful group having been contributed by Mrs. Florence L. Sturgiss of New York. The research collection of birds now numbers about 70,000 specimens; the exhibition collection about 10,000, exclusive of over a hundred bird groups, about one fourth of which are large 'habitat' groups, a notice of which was recently published in this journal (Auk, April, 1909, pp. 165-174, pll. i-iv). In addition to the above material, belonging to the Museum, Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., has been provided with storage for his private collection of bird skins, numbering about 25,000 specimens, which are now conveniently accessible for purposes of research.

THE decease of Mr. Charles K. Worthen, who was suddenly stricken last May (see Auk, 1909, p. 332) marks the passing of the last of the large dealers in North American mammal and bird skins, bird's eggs and other scientific material. Beginning business in 1873, he became known at home and abroad where many of his specimens are now to be found in both public and private collections. In the settlement of his estate, his large stock of bird-skins, some 7000 in number, was purchased by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and Mr. J. H. Fleming, for their private collections. No less than 700 species and races of the North American list are represented, many of them rare and in large series. Among noteworthy species may be mentioned the Carolina Paroquet, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the White, the Snowy and the Reddish Egrets, the Wood Duck, the White Gyrfalcon, the Swallow-tailed, the Mississippi and the Everglade Kites, the Yellow and the Black Rails — all represented by large series of specimens, while rarities in greater or less abundance may be found among the Gulls, Petrels, Geese, Owls, Turkeys, and the smaller land birds.

A last Attempt to Locate and Save from Extinction the Passenger Pigeon. — Through the interest and generosity of Col. Anthony R. Kuser, I am able to offer the following award.

Three hundred dollars (\$300.) for information of a nesting pair of Wild Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*), UNDISTURBED.

Before this award will be paid such information must be furnished (exclusively and confidentially), as will enable a committee of expert ornithologists to visit the nest and confirm the finding. If the nest and parent birds are found undisturbed, the award will be promptly paid.

[Signed] C. WILLIAM BEEBE.

Until January 1, 1911, during Mr. Beebe's absence from America, all information concerning the existence of Passenger Pigeons should be sent to C. F. Hodge, Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

In making this offer Col. Kuser withdraws his former offer of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a freshly killed Wild Pigeon. He does this because of the great danger of complete extermination.